

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-14 ISO-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 FEA-02

OMB-01 SAM-01 DRC-01 /181 W
----- 113130

R 210359Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 556

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: GATT, ETRD, CE

SUBJ: GATT ARTICLE XXVIII RENEGOTIATIONS - SRI LANKA

REF A. STATE 32206 B. COLOMBO 230 C. TSC DOC 73-2, 15 JAN 73

WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTINUE ARTICLE 28 RENEGOTIATION, HOPEFULLY TO CONCLUSION, BY FIRST MAKING INFORMAL INQUIRY FOLLOWED, IF ADVISABLE, WITH FORMAL WRITTEN APPROACH TO GSL AS BASIS FOR DISCUSSION WITH SENIOR TRADE, AND, IF NECESSARY, FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, BEFORE PROCEEDING WE NEED SEVERAL CLARIFICATIONS IN ORDER FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT WE ARE DOING, TO WIT:

1. DOES OMISSION IN REF A OF ANY MENTION OF WAIVER AND OF INCREASED PREFERENCE MARGINS FOR CITRUS MEAN ISSUES ARE DROPPED?

2. IN REVIEWING ITEMS LISTED PARA 3, REF A, WE NOTICE BTN CATEGORY 84.22, CRANES, HOISTS, ETC., APPEARS UNDER PART III
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A AND UNDER PART III B BUT WITH DIFFERENT IMPORT VALUES. IS

THIS A DESCREPANCY?

3. WE DO NOT HAVE GATT L/3530, 26 MAY 1971 GIVEN AS REF C IN REF A. DO WE NEED TO PROCEED? IF SO, PLEASE POUCH SOONEST.

4. ASSUMING GSL AGREES WITH PRESENT PROPOSAL OR SOME VARIATION, WHAT IS TECHNICAL AND LEGAL PROCEDURE TO CONCLUDE RENEGOTIAION? WE ASSUME THAT GSL ORAL OR WRITTEN RESPONSE WILL HAVE TO BE FOLLOWED BY FORMAL GSL ACTION IN GENEVA. WOULD BE HELPFUL TO HAVE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF STEPS REQUIRED.

5. IN RE-OPENING RENEGOTIATION, WE INTEND DISCUSS INFORMALLY PRESENT U.S. POSITION WITH SAMARAWICKREME, DIRECTOR OF COMMERCE, TRADE MINISTRY, TO TRY TO DETERMINE WHAT GSL RESPONSE MIGHT BE. THEN, IF ADVISABLE, WE WILL SEND DIPLOMATIC NOTE OR LEAVE AIDE MEMOIRE WITH POLICY LEVEL GSL OFFICIALS. HOWEVER, MAIN POINT OF U.S. POSITION, I.E., REBINDING LOWERED TARIFF RATES TO GUARANTEE COMPENSATION FOR INCREASED TARIFFS, REMAINS UNCHANGED. IN VIEW INITIAL RESPONSE DESCRIBED REF B, GSL MAY WELL REFUSE DESPITE REASONING GIVEN REF A. IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS GSL RESPONSE, IS USG PREPARED TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS OR, CONVERSELY, TO STIFFEN OUR POSITION THROUGH RECOURSE TO SOME ACTION UNDER GATT RULES? IN ORDER TO HAVE BETTER CHANCE TO CONCLUDE RENEGOTIATIONS QUICKLY, WE WOULD LIKE SOME ADVANCE IDEA OF USG CONTINGENCY POSITIONS BEYOND PRESENT NEGOTIATING SITUATION.
VAN HOLLEN

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